

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-12. Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposition of fluorine compounds including SF₆ or NF₃, comprising a reactor having a catalyst for decomposing said fluorine compounds and a catalyst for the decomposition of at least one of CO, SO₂F₂ ~~or~~ and N₂O charged therein; a heater for heating said catalysts in said a-reactor; a moisture supplying unit for adding moisture to said fluorine compounds supplied to said reactor; an oxygen supplying unit for adding oxygen or an oxygen-containing gas; and an inert gas supplying unit for adding an inert gas as a diluent gas,

wherein said reactor having said catalyst for decomposing said fluorine compounds charged upstream therein and said catalyst for the decomposition of at least one of CO, SO₂F₂ ~~or~~ and N₂O charged downstream therein.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposing a-fluorine compounds comprising a reactor having a catalyst for decomposing said fluorine compounds including SF₆ or NF₃ charged upstream therein and a catalyst for the

decomposition of at least one of CO, SO₂F₂ ~~or~~and N₂O formed by said decomposition charged downstream therein; a heater for heating said catalysts in said reactor; a moisture supplying unit for adding moisture to said fluorine compound supplied to said reactor; an inert gas supplying unit for adding an inert gas as a diluent gas; and an oxygen supplying unit for adding oxygen or an oxygen-containing gas to a gas containing at least one of HF, CO, SO₂F₂ and N₂O formed by decomposition of said fluorine compounds.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposing a-fluorine compounds including SF₆ or NF₃ comprising an apparatus for the decomposition of and removing of SO₂F₂ from a gas containing SO₂F₂ comprising a reactor having an SO₂F₂ decomposition catalyst charged therein; and means for adding water and oxygen to said gas supplied to said reactor.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposing a-fluorine compounds as claimed in claim 13, wherein said catalyst for the decomposition of at least one of CO, SO₂F₂ ~~or~~and N₂O contains at least one selected from Pd, Pt, Cu, Mn, Fe, Co, Rh, Ir and Au in the form of a metal or an oxide.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposing a-fluorine compounds as claimed in claim 13, wherein said catalyst for the decomposition of at

least one of CO, SO₂F₂ ~~or~~and N₂O is selected from a catalyst of Pd and La carried on alumina, a catalyst of Pt and La carried on alumina, a catalyst of Rh and La carried on alumina, a catalyst of Au and La carried on alumina, a catalyst of Ir and La carried on alumina, a catalyst of Pd carried on alumina, a catalyst of Pt carried on alumina, a catalyst of Cu carried on alumina, a catalyst of Mn carried on alumina, a catalyst of Pd and W carried on titania and a catalyst of Co carried on alumina.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the decomposing a-fluorine compounds as claimed in claim 13, ~~wherein said apparatus further comprises~~ comprising a gas scrubbing tower for removing hydrogen fluoride and other water soluble components from a gas discharged from said reactor by contacting said gas with water or an alkaline aqueous solution.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst for decomposing fluorine compounds includes a combination of aluminum and nickel in the form of an oxide.

20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said catalyst for decomposing fluorine compounds includes a combination of aluminum and nickel in the form of an oxide.